

HOUSE BILL 1954
By Phelan

WHEREAS, from time to time, this General Assembly has seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary citizens who, during their lifetimes, contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Jim Alexander of McKenzie was most assuredly one such diligent servant, a gentleman who worked with acumen and alacrity to build a better tomorrow for his fellow citizens and their children; and

WHEREAS, following patriotic military service, Jim Alexander opened the successful insurance business in McKenzie which still bears his name; and

WHEREAS, Jim Alexander was a central figure in state political circles, serving as statewide campaign manager for former Governor Frank Clement's bid for the Governor's office in 1962 and his senatorial campaign in 1964. He was elected to the office of State Treasurer by the state legislature, and he served two two-year terms with distinction; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Jim Alexander was deservedly appointed to a four-year term as Commissioner of Industrial Development under the administration of Governor Buford Ellington; and

WHEREAS, Jim Alexander's proficient tenure in state government concluded when Governor Winfield Dunn took office in 1971; Mr. Alexander's commitment to the State of

Tennessee was further evidenced by his willingness to remain in Governor Dunn's administration for three months until a successor could be appointed; and

WHEREAS, for 17 years, Jim Alexander meritoriously served as the Executive Director of the Insurors of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he was named as the Insuror of the Year of the Tennessee Association, and established the Young Agents' Committee, served on the Tennessee State Board of Elections, was a member of the Governor's Commission on Tort Reform, served as treasurer of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, was president of the Frank Clement Foundation, created UNSURPAC for the state, and was a founding member of the Civil Justice Reform, Inc. of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, despite the many demands placed upon him, Jim Alexander was an unflagging and active supporter of the University of Tennessee Board of Athletics, the Tennessee Heart Fund Drive, the Middle Tennessee Heart Fund, the Tennessee School Board Association, the Capitol Club of Nashville, Lambuth College in Jackson, the McKenzie Rotary Club, the McKenzie Special School District Board of Education, the American Legion, the McKenzie Banking Company, the Carroll County United Way, the McKenzie Industrial Board, the Finance Committee for Tennessee American Legion, the Pastor Parish Committee of the United Methodist Church, the Elks Club and the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Jim Alexander left behind will be remembered and treasured by his friends and associates for many years to come and it is most appropriate that this General Assembly honor the memory of this noble public servant by naming a certain highway in his community in his honor; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, that segment of State Route 22 in Carroll County from the corporate limits of the City of McKenzie southward to the corporate limits of the City of Huntingdon is hereby designated as the "Jim Alexander

Memorial Highway” as a commemoration of this special man’s life of purpose and commitment to the public welfare.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such segment of State Route 22 as the “Jim Alexander Memorial Highway”.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.